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STEVEN B. POKOTILOW, ESQ.
STROOCK & STROOCK & LAVAN LLP
180 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038

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JUL 17 2007

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
David Y. Zhang :
Application No. 09/978,261 :
Filed: October 15, 2001 :
Attorney Docket No. 251305.0028 SBP/MCD :

DECISION ON PETITION
UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)

This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed April 23, 2007, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional and international applications as set forth in the amendment filed January 25, 2007.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) and (iii) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

All of the above requirements having been satisfied, the late claim for benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) is accepted as being unintentionally delayed.

The decision on petition mailed March 16, 2007 was incorrect in that it stated that "the amendment improperly states that Application No. 08/596,331 is 'the United States national stage application corresponding to PCT International Application PCT/US95/07671,'" when, in fact, Office records indicate that Application No. 08/596,331 is the National Stage entry of PCT/US95/07671. Accordingly, the amendment to the specification filed on January 25, 2007 for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted therein is proper and is accepted. However, as the amendment filed

with the renewed petition is now incorrect in indicating that it is a continuation-in-part of the aforementioned PCT application, this amendment is improper and is not accepted. The Office sincerely apologizes for the inconvenience this matter may have caused petitioner.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon.


Further, petitioner is advised that, where an application claims a benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of a chain of applications, the application must make a reference to the first (earliest) application and every intermediate application. See Sampson v. Ampex Corp., 463 F.2d 1042, 1044-45, 174 USPQ 417, 418-19 (2d Cir. 1972); Sticker Indus. Supply Corp. v. Blaw-Knox Co., 405 F.2d 90, 93, 160 USPQ 177, 179 (7th Cir. 1968); Hovlid v. Asari, 305 F.2d 747, 751, 134 USPQ 162, 165 (9th Cir. 1962). See also MPEP § 201.11. In addition, every intermediate application must also make a reference to the first (earliest) application and every application after the first application and before such intermediate application. MPEP Section 201.06(d). Petitioner should review the claim submitted to ensure that a reference is made to the first application and to every intermediate application.

Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether this application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3218. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being referred to the examiner of Technology Center Art Unit 1634 for consideration of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) to the prior-filed applications noted in the amendment filed January 25, 2007.


Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt



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APPL NO.	FILING OR 371(c) DATE	ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	TOT CLMS	IND CLMS
09/978,261	10/15/2001	1634	1716	251305.0028 SBP/MCD	39	9

CONFIRMATION NO. 4119

CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT



OC000000024838688

Steven B. Pokotilow, Esq.
 Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
 180 Maiden Lane
 New York, NY 10038

Date Mailed: 07/16/2007

Receipt is acknowledged of this nonprovisional patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. **If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Filing Receipt Corrections. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).**

Applicant(s)

David Y. Zhang, Jamaica, NY;

Power of Attorney:

Lawrence Rosenthal--24377
 Steven Pokotilow--26405
 David Schaeffer--32716
 Matthew Siegal--32941
 James DeCarlo--36120

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CIP of 09/728,265 12/01/2000 PAT 6,593,086
 which is a CIP of 09/299,217 04/23/1999 PAT 6,569,647
 which is a CON of 08/690,494 07/31/1996 PAT 5,942,391
 which is a CIP of 08/596,331 05/20/1996 ABN
 which is a 371 of PCT/US95/07671 06/14/1995
 which is a CIP of 08/263,937 06/22/1994 ABN

Foreign Applications

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 11/14/2001

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US09/978,261**

Projected Publication Date: Not Applicable

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

Nucleic acid amplification methods

Preliminary Class

435

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

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GRANTED

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NOT GRANTED

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